

## Quality Committee Minutes - April 10, 2008

Present: Sandra Morris, Cindy O'Dell, Stephanie Goetz, Libby Hancock, Shelly Meyer, Judy Kendall, Lisa Murphy (staff), Chris Hettinger (staff), Linda Kjorstad (staff), Kim Richter (guest), Jane Schumacher (guest).

Acting Chair: Sandra Morris

Jeannette Hall - presented letter from the accreditation committee of MtAEYC for support for programs acquiring accreditation thru NAEYC. Committee is devoted to accreditation. Letter offered input on how MtAEYC would like to be included with possible grant categories in the QRIS. Copy of letter is attached to this document.

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BB updates:

Lisa - Specialized Training & Merit Pay

Specialized Training - released - lots of questions have been submitted - looks as if many proposals will be submitted.

Topics of interest - giving directions, hot topics being discussed during the past year.

Current projects on handout.

Kim Richter - CCR&R's want to know where the \$\$ for provider grants went - response - the money went to additional dollars for mini grants and QRIS development.

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Further discussion needs to happen on incentive amounts for QRIS.

I/T II will be offered this summer - combination of on-line and face to face. \$210 for 4 credits and can choose to audit for non college credit. Dates for the intensive part of this class are: June 19-22 at Salish Kootenai College - Thurs evening thru Sunday noon. Cost of class includes Web CT + access to UM-W library for resources. Need to add CITC - to flyer for I/T II.

CITC -264 contracts since beginning of program (2006) high numbers of contracts which have completed the full \$1600.

ECP reported on the NAEYC Professional Development Institute - last yr pre conference day invited Professional Development teams from all states to come to cross sector PD day. Last yr team went from MT.

This year MT has been invited again - team (from different sectors - inclusion, OPI, ECSB, Hi Ed, HS, CC organizations) This years team - Theresa D'Stephano-MtAETC incoming president; Marlyn James-Higher Ed., Lucy Marose - CCR&R rep & inclusion, Linda Kjorstad -ECSB; Libby & Ann - Early Childhood Project. Pre conf day is June 7, 2008.

Touchpoints - Jamie Palagi reports she loves her journal. The Recommendation from the last MECAC - Jamie presented to Hank who has concerns.- Hank's concerns are government dollars endorsing 1 philosophy

and serving a small population. A conference call was held with Mary Jane Standaert, Lisa Murphy, Jamie Palagi, and Linda Kjorstad to discuss. Mary Jane is researching how Touchpoints might be able to go thru the School Readiness communities. ECSB is leaning towards drafting 1 RFP for organizations that will align elements of Touchpoints to a strengthening families model. ECSB will meet to see what Mary Jane has researched. Jamie feels we must find a creative way to sell this model. Money is still in budget (\$55,000)

Libby's concern - The Family Support Programs in Bozeman have a disconnect with Child Care. Bozeman is working on this through their School Readiness group - building slowly. Jamie - must be careful how we write RFP -skillful to weed out those that don't connect with Child Care.

Formal recommendation - ECSB drafts RFP in alignment with the model of Touchpoints that the Quality Comm will review at the working meeting this summer or to be sent out by e-mail. State would monitor RFP. Action - full consensus.

#### Non-credit CDA coursework in CCR&R's

Kim Richter (Child Care Connections Executive Director) reported - Non-credit CDA discussion on what CCR&R's are doing.

7 out of 12 are doing very little or nothing. They are not sure how to afford it.

CCC-Great Falls- offer classroom CDA & independent CDA- offered to the Blackfeet tribe as CDA classroom. They will not continue because of Provider Service budget cuts.

The Great Falls classroom model has providers come together for 2 hrs. per week and they use the ESSENTIALS curriculum

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Kalispell - advising when asked

Helena - advising

Glasgow - advising, do lots with tribes, lots of on-site using Great Falls- Karen Z model  
Havre-nothing; Head Start does advising and coaching  
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Providers are advised not to do Non-credit CDA if they plan to go to college.  
Estimated expenses- range from \$8,000 - \$16,000 for a 1 yr program.  
Estimated income from these courses range from \$4,000 to \$6,000 depending on model used.  
Estimated cost per student is \$1,000.

Great Falls may change model due to expense and cuts to the Provider Services budget.

Discussion continued on non-credit CDA and the Career Path- CDA Level 3 for non credit; Level 4 for college CDA. ECP continually gets calls on how to progress on levels. Providers really want Level 3 - and want options on how they can achieve. There is nothing comprehensive by putting 2 hr trainings together to receive a CDA. We need to figure out a way to offer non credit comprehensive CDA. This issue is very concerning. Suggestion made to develop a continuum of training - need to redo how we give training.

Look at employee retention - does training fit into employee longevity.  
Concerns - this issue needs to go to Quality Committee, ECP board, & hi ed consortium meeting. Important for quality and we need to look out how we can support. We do not have a comprehensive training system for pre-school. Attempt with BEST curriculum for family providers. This will be put on agenda for Career Development Board meeting in May 2008.

Cindy O'Dell shared that SKC and Blackfeet Comm College does give credit for non-credit CDA training. 60 hrs for 1 section of Level 1 of CDA and then next 60 hrs. for section 2 for completion of CDA - fits into QRIS.  
Some systems already in existence which will support above in CCUBS.

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probably by Fall 2008. MT needs to call Chris Cole at NAFCC to check on availability/need of observers for MT.

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